

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 18345 211514Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 IO-13 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00
AF-10 /115 W
-----116164 212123Z /41

R 211425Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5872
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, UR, US, XO
SUBJ: TASS COMMENTS ON INDIAN OCEAN TALKS

SUMMARY: TASS POLITICAL COMMENTARY ON DEC. 20 HAS EXCITED
SOME INTEREST IN WESTERN PRESS CORPS, APPARENTLY DUE TO
DEC. 18 NYT STORY BY RICHARD BURT. WE CONSIDER TASS PIECE
TO BE STANDARD SOVIET COMMENTARY ON THE INDIAN OCEAN
SITUATION. THERE SEEMS TO BE NO CONNECTION WITH BURT
ARTICLE.END SUMMARY.

1. TASS POLITICAL COMMENTATOR ALEXEI PETROV HAS LONG
CRITIQUE OF OPPONENTS OF SOVIET-AMERICAN INDIAN OCEAN
NEGOTIATIONS ON TASS-ENGLISH WIRE DECEMBER 20. SOVIET
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CENTRAL PRESS HAS NOT THUS FAR CARRIED PIECE. WE
ASSUME DEPARTMENT HAS FULL TASS OR FBIS TEXT; WE
HAVE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON THE PIECE, WHICH HAS ATTRACTED
SOME PRESS ATTENTION HERE.

-- THE PETROV PIECE CLEARLY IS NOT PROMPTED BY,
OR IN REPLY TO, THE RICHARD BURT NYT STORY OF DEC 18

(CARRIED IN DEC. 19 WIRELESS FILE BECAUSE THE FOCUS IS DIRECTED AT THE CHINESE AND OTHER OPPONENTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, NOT AT USG ATTITUDES, AND BECAUSE THE LEAD TIME IS TOO SHORT FOLLOWING THE APPEARANCE OF THE BURT ARTICLE. WESTERN NEWSMEN HERE, NONE-THELESS, HAVE SPECULATED THAT THERE MAY BE A CONNECTION AND THAT PETROV'S REFERENCES TO "DARING AND RADICAL STEPS" MAY BE LINKED TO BURT'S REPORT OF A NEW SOVIET PROPOSAL IN THE TALKS.

-- THE AUTHOR CRITICIZES "THE U.S. OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE" (PRESUMABLY AN UNNAMED AMERICAN AMBASSADOR) IN A LITTORAL STATE FOR SUGGESTING THAT MOSCOW WOULD NOT AGREE "TO FULLY WITHDRAW THE NAVAL FORCES FROM THE INDIAN OCEAN --THE TOPIC OF THE CURRENT NEGOTIATION." PETROV SUGGESTS THAT THIS IS NOT THE "TOPIC" AND FURTHER ON IN THE COMMENTARY DEFINES THE SOVIET OBJECTIVE AS BEING "TO ELIMINATE ALL FOREIGN MILITARY BASES (IN THE INDIAN OCEAN) AND REDUCE THE MILITARY PRESENCE OF NON-COASTAL STATES." WE DO NOT RECALL A CLEARER PUBLIC STATEMENT RECENTLY THAT SHOWS THAT, DESPITE ITS ANNOUNCED SUPPORT OF THE IOPZ CONCEPT, THE USSR IS NOT IN FAVOR OF COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF ITS FORCES FROM THE AREA.

-- THE SHARPEST WORDS IN THE ARTICLE ARE RESERVED
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FOR THE CHINESE, ADM. MOORER, ALVIN COTTRELL, AND AN (AGAIN UNNAMED) FOREIGN MINISTER OF A LITTORAL STATE FOR THEIR CRITICAL REFERENCES TO THE NEGOTIATION. THESE TARGETS, EXCEPT FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTER, HAVE ALL BEEN DEALT WITH RECENTLY BY SOVIET COMMENTARIES ON THE ISSUE.

2. THERE IS NO CRITICISM, EXPLICIT OR IMPLIED, OF THE U.S. OR ITS CONDUCT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE ONLY REFERENCE TO AMB. WARNKE IS FAVORABLE AS IS THE AUTHOR'S OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF CHANCES FOR SUCCESS OF THE BILATERAL TALKS. IN SUM THE ARTICLE DOES NOT DEPART FROM THE STANDARD LINES WHICH HAVE MARKED ALMOST ALL SOVIET COMMENT ON THE SUBJECT SINCE THE TALKS BEGAN.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, OCEANS
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW18345
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771232/aaaabaim.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 159680
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TASS COMMENTS ON INDIAN OCEAN TALKS SUMMARY: TASS POLITICAL COMMENTARY ON DEC. 20 HAS EXCITED SOME INTEREST IN WESTERN PRESS CORPS, APPARENTLY D
TAGS: SOPN, UR, US, XO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/482a16ff-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009